

A painful erythematous plaque on the right labium majora



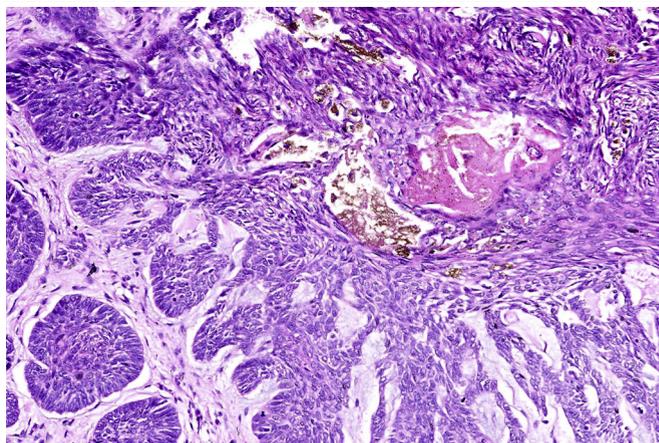
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FIGURE 1
Vulvar lesion



Jia. Painful erythematous plaque. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2019.

FIGURE 2
Histopathologic examination



Jia. Painful erythematous plaque. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2019.

An otherwise healthy 66-year-old woman had an occasionally painful erythematous plaque on the right labium majora for 2 years. The patient denied bleeding or other symptoms. Physical examination revealed a slightly erosive, elevated, and infiltrated erythematous plaque that measured 2×1 cm (Figure 1). Histopathologic examination revealed nests of basaloid cells in the dermis with the characteristic peripheral palisading and retraction artifact (Figure 2). Therefore, a diagnosis of basal cell carcinoma of the vulva was established.

The majority of basal cell carcinoma occurs on sun-exposed areas; they rarely appear on the vulva, which is completely protected from sunlight. The unusual site and nonpigmented nature of this lesion make the diagnosis less likely. Differential diagnosis includes squamous cell carcinoma, Bowen disease, extramammary Paget disease, syphilis, and hidradenoma papilliferum. The vulvar lesion was removed surgically, with a 2.0-cm margin. There was no evidence of local recurrence or metastasis 12 months after excision. ■

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The authors report no conflict of interest.

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